

Practise Jan. 4th 1815 -

14. 1817

Jan. 2. 1818 -

Introductory lecture on the

Practice of physic.

of which and on

nosology

which will

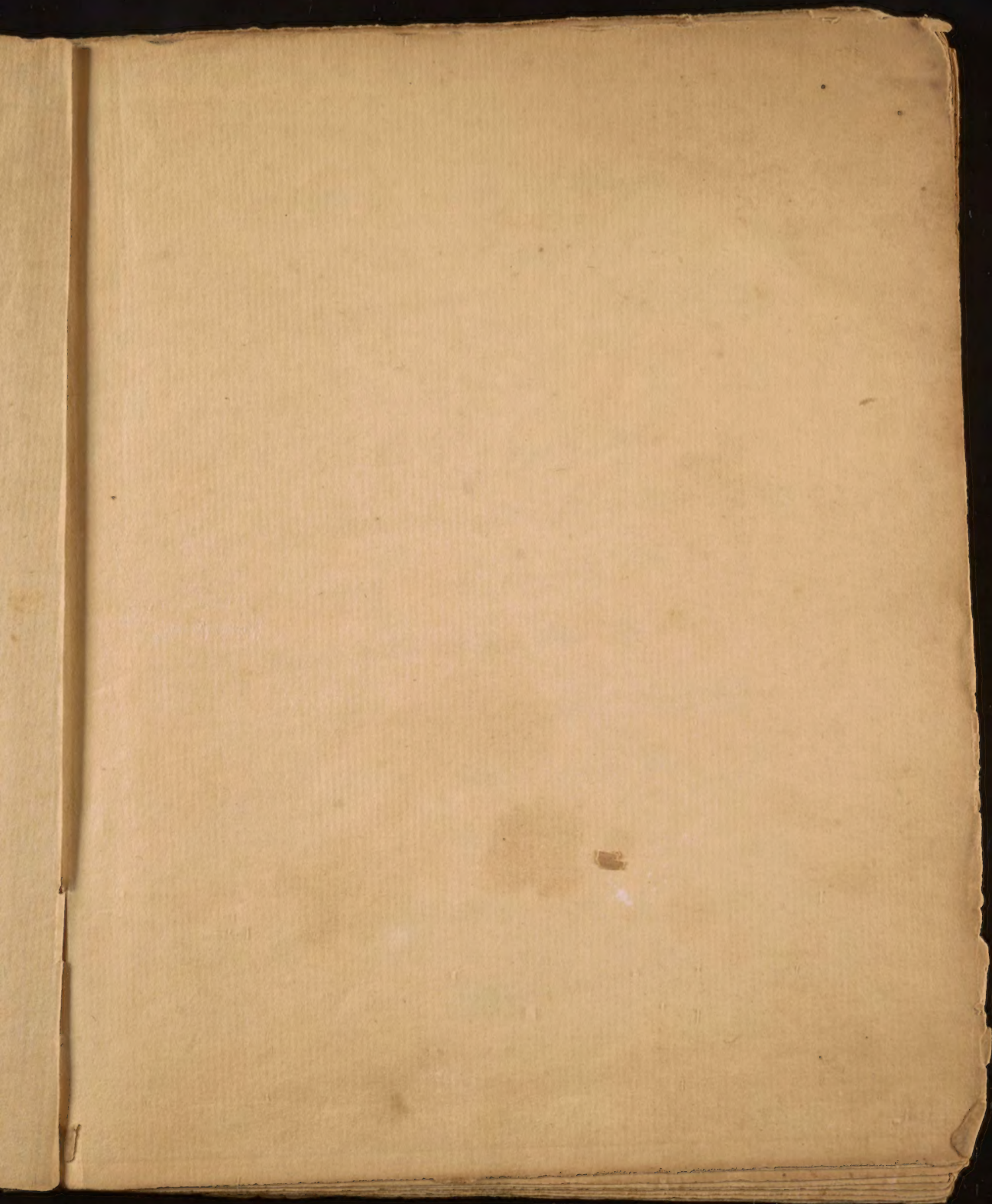
Practise of ph. physic

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We come now to the 4th & last part of
our course, viz: to apply the principles of
our Physiology, ^{Hygiene} Pathology, and Therapeutics to
the practice of medicine.

In our Therapeutics I mentioned in
a general manner, the Remedies, that are proper
for disease as a Unit in all its different states.

I shall now mention the remedies that are
proper for disease in all its forms & grades
and states, or in other words for individual dis-

cases. ~~In order to enable us to know these
forms and grades & states I shall mention~~

a few of their characteristic signs.

You are not to expect in the dis-
-charge of this part of my duty, a minute

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history of every disease as designated by its
 form, grade or seat, nor yet a minute
 account of the opinions or controversies
 of authors respecting them. I shall barely
 mention a few of their most characteristic
 symptoms, ~~and the remedies that have been~~
~~used to cure them~~, and refer you to
 Dr. Cullen's first lines and other practical
 books for a more particular history of
 them. For short I shall aim only to give
 you a ~~lecture~~ as it were of all that I
 have read, heard - seen and thought upon
 the subjects before us in the course of my life.
 You will I hope easily ^{comprehend and always} remember what I
 shall deliver, for the facts that will be
 laid before you will generally be connected
 by means of principles which cannot
 fail to imprint them not only in your

V It was

memories, but in your Understandings.

The first question that occurs here is, what order shall be adopt in treating upon diseases? — It has been customary of late years to divide them by means of certain Characters, into Classes, orders, genera, and Species after the manner of plants and Animals. D'Sydenham first suggested this mode of dividing & distinguish-
ing diseases. This suggestion ^{has been} ~~is~~ realized by Segar, Vogel, Linnaeus, Sauvage, and finally by D'Cullen. They all differ from each other according to the different ^{views} of their Authors. This mode of dividing diseases has been called Nosology. ~~I~~ I object to it for the following reasons.

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I It is contrary to just views of anatomy & Physiology which represent the body as a Unit possessing nearly the same properties in all its parts and as disposed by its Union to such Sympathies as ^{to} impart a sameness to all its morbid affections, and to prevent their being _{so} limited as to acquire a definite, or specific character.

II Nosology is incompatible with the Causes of Diseases. These ~~causes~~ are remote, pre-disposing, exciting and proximate, ~~each of~~ ~~which is a distinct class~~ none of which will admit of a division. The remote ^{of disease} ~~causes~~ ^{I have said formerly whether they act directly, or indirectly, and however} ~~causes~~ ^{much they may be diversified} ~~in~~ ^{force, on the parts on which they act,} or in the effects ^{which} they produce, are all

V to the difference in the feat, or extent
of the predisposing debility.

They act by a ~~stimulating power~~ ^{stimulating power}, and
a Unit. ~~They produce different diseases according~~
~~to the nature of the stimulus~~ ^{produce different diseases according}
~~to the nature of the stimulus~~ ^{to the nature of the stimulus}
The predisposing Cause of disease is like-
wise a Unit. - ~~for who can divide debility?~~ ^{for who can divide debility?}
It differs ~~only in its degree~~ ^{and effects} only in its degree
in every part of the body.

The exciting causes of all diseases like their
remote, possess but one property, - they are
all irritants, and of course are a Unit.
- We see the same ~~from~~ ^{effects} produced by them how-
ever much they may be diversified. ~~by~~ Thus
the yellow fever is exactly the same disease
whether its exciting cause be heat, in tem-
perature or a violent emotion of the mind.
Nor lastly can diseases be divided by their
proximate cause, for ~~stage of disease~~
this consists simply in morbid excitement,

V ~~the~~ ~~author~~ ~~Dr. Beddoes~~ ~~has~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~
~~the~~ ~~short~~ ~~&~~ ~~typology~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~
~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~
Diseases upon the
bed of Procrustes, and obliges us to
shorten and lengthen them, in order
to conform them to one rule, that is
to produce perfect Uniformity in their
supposed Clases, orders, genera & species.

or subdivided by the immense variety of its
 and this, however diversified, ~~it may be in~~
^{forms,} ~~its~~ grades, ~~forms~~ and feats, is nothing but
 a Unit. Dr Cullen has divided diseases by
 this rule, ~~but~~ without collecting
 that the same disease may in a few days
 or hours belong to all his different classes
 orders and genera. Thus a fever which he
 arranges with the pyrexia, if attended with
 convulsions, coma, cutaneous eruptions,
 intestinal discharges, and hemorrhages,
 (and this ~~is~~ is often the case) will, in the running
 its course, partake of all the ~~very~~ symptoms
 and acquire all the specific characters of the
 Doctor's tremors - exanthemata - Profluvia, or
 Spasmi, - and Hemorrhagiae. ~~but~~ V

III. Nosology is incompatible with the Changes
 that are induced ~~by~~ upon diseases by predis-
 -position,

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Season, Climate, and ~~the~~ time, or the lapse of years. The same disease differs widely in its symptoms in persons of opposite predispositions. Seasons and Climate likewise change the character of diseases. The Asiatic plague & the American yellow fever are the same disease, and yet how much do they differ, from the influence of Climate! — the glandular swellings of the former, and the black vomit of the latter, are supposed to constitute pathognomonic signs of ^a difference between them, but both these symptoms are the effects of climate. The uniform heat of the Asiatic fever gives the plague a centrifugal direction, — hence the glandular swellings on the external parts of the body, while the influence of the cool & cold weather of the United States, give the yellow fever

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a centripetal direction, and hence the origin
of the morbid Affections of the ~~stomach~~ ^{liver} &
liver and of the black Vomiting which ~~characterizes~~
accompany that disease. ~~is that~~

⁺⁺⁺ Time has the same effect in changing the
character of the same disease. Thus the
dysentery ~~was once considered as a venereal dis-~~
~~ease~~ which 200 years ago was a contagious
and incurable disease, now yields to medicine
in many cases, and is very rarely propagated
by contagion.

IV Nosology is incompatible with the Nature of
of Epidemics. It is peculiar to them to blend
two or three diseases together. Under these
circumstances, how shall designate each
of them so as to enable them to retain
their respective Specific Characters? By
what name for instance shall we

X Thus a pleurisy and a Rheumatism
are induced by the same kind of morbid
excitement. They differ only in
their seats.

II ~~See the Changes of Diseases~~ ^{by} ~~Season~~
climate, and in their

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common

call that Union of a ~~mixed~~ fever with some
of the Symptoms of small pox which
is described by Dr Sydenham, or of the
~~that~~ small pox and Ulcerous Sorethroat
described by Dr Muskaen? Where shall we
arrange the *Scaligeria anginosa* & the an-
timal fevers when they combine their
Symptoms together? Many similar
instances might be mentioned of the
Union of different Diseases as they are
called, both Epidemic and Chronic, which
being
form an inseparable Obstacle to their
divided by nosological Characters. ~~to~~

V Nosology is incompatible with the
varying ~~seats~~ ^{monover} of Diseases. We often see the
same Disease occupy alternately, and in

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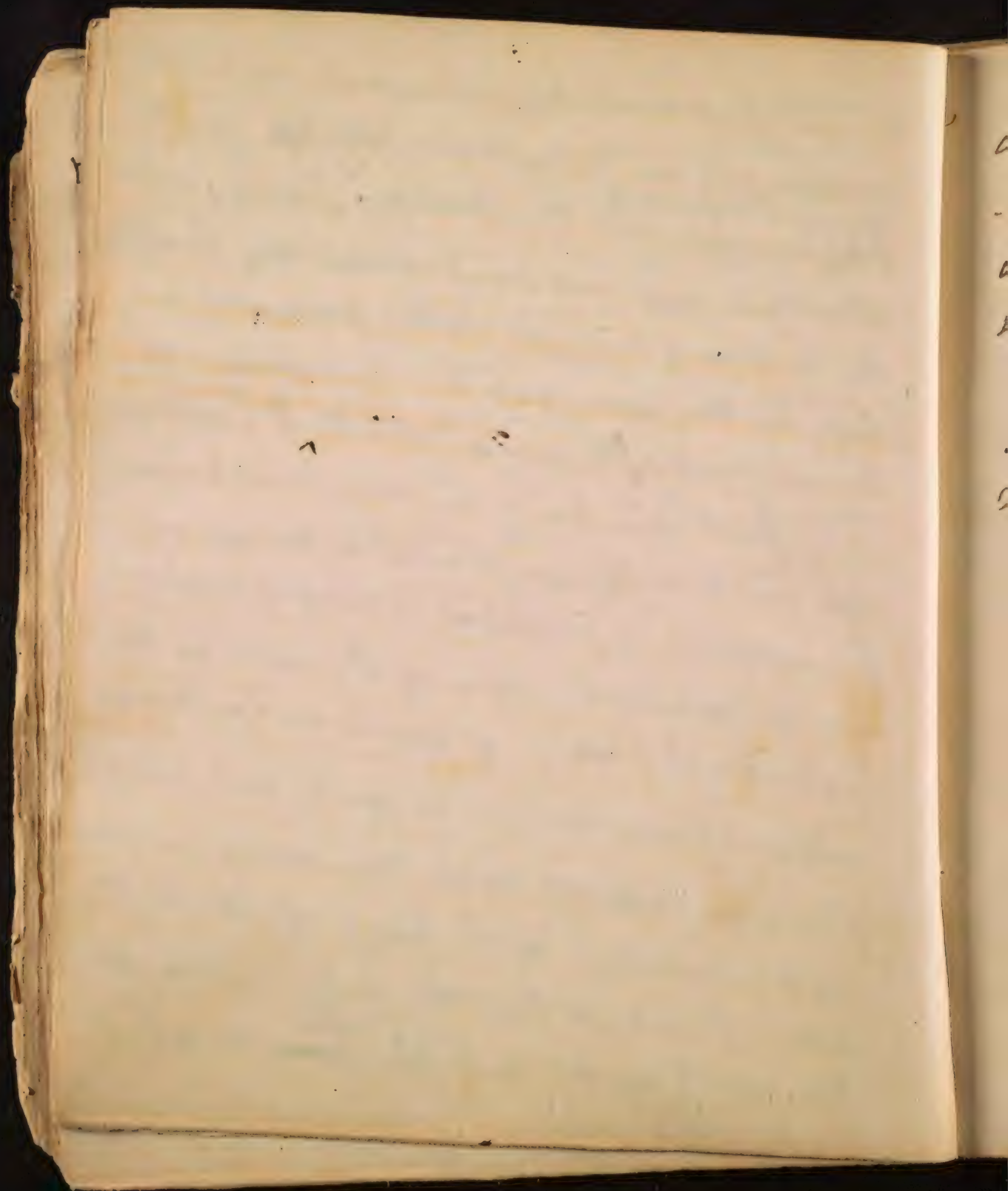
Inception every part of the body. The common
 people do justice to this remark when they
 talk of a phurisy in the head. They mean
 by it a translation of morbid excitement
 from the phura to the brain. ^{But when the} The same
 disease ~~transfers~~ passes to the limbs,
^{which it sometimes does,}
~~when~~ it unfortunately acquires the name
 of Rheumatism. How differently do we
 act in the use of terms to other of the
 phenomena of nature! We do not
 call rain ^{or} snow by different names
 when ~~they~~ ^{it} falls upon a valley, a plain, a
 wood, a mountain or a river; ^{nor are} ~~But~~ we
~~are~~ ^{always equally} ~~in~~ incorrect in the
^{new} application of ~~terms~~ ^{names} to old, or ~~to~~ ^{to} the same
 diseases. The ~~occupies~~ yellow fever
 occupies in

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✓ Again, - we consider a cancer, in
what ever part of the body, ~~it appears~~ whether internally
or externally, to be a Unit - ~~here~~

in the course of a few days, the head, the
 limbs, the bowels, the liver & the stomach,
 - The gout passes in like manner from
 one part of the body to another, and
 yet we do not change ^{the} ~~their~~ names, ^{of either of them} with
 every new part of the body they ~~occupy~~ ^{affect}.
 We allow ^{each of} these two diseases in all
 their forms and seats to be a Unit. ^{Why} ~~but~~
 Should we not ~~admit~~ extend our ideas of
 all diseases ^{in the same manner} and admit them all to be
 equally a Unit, and
 nothing but different forms of morbid
 excitement, diversified only by their
 seats, and in some instances by their
 remote causes. ~~Should~~ ^{to the} ~~acts~~ ^{of the} morbid
 actions of the yellow fever & ^{of the} gout
 are precisely the same; - They differ
 only

V Again - we consider Cancer in whatever
part of the body it may appear whether in:
-ternally or externally as a Unit, ~~but to~~ ^{or}
do we give different names to the fractures
of bones whether they occur in the head, the
ribs, ~~and~~ or the limbs. They are all a Unit,
and have nothing specific in their nature.
Why then do we give different names, and
apply certain specific Characters ^{to the same} of ~~discrepancy~~
only because it occupies a different part of
the body?

in being induced by different remote
 causes and in being attended ~~to~~ with
 different degrees of ^{life} danger and mortality. I shall further
 illustrate my meaning under this head by
 the recital of a single Case. I attended a
 lady in the year 1804 in that form of
 disease in the stomach which Dr Cullen
 calls Gastritis. In a few days this Disease
 left her and she complained of the usual
 symptoms of Intestines - next of head ache
 or of Cephalgia - then of Pyrosis, or the
 water brash - then of pains in her limbs
 called Rheumatism or Gout, and lastly
 she was affected with Hepatitis, or an
 inflammation of the liver of which she
 died. I ask - had this lady six successive
 diseases? - or had she ^{what} ~~one~~ is called



a complication of diseases? no -
 no - she had but one disease, which
 occupied different parts of her body, and
 that was morbid excitement.
 In the disposition of the body by death.
~~again in the course of the disease~~
~~of the pathological nature of the disease~~
 after paper ~~in the disposition of the body~~
 morbid excitement, ~~passing~~ from one
 system to another, and ~~to~~ to all parts of
 the body, and that ^{frequently} in the course of a few
 days or hours. Now in these cases are
 diseases multiplied by every new system
 or part of the body, ^{that is} ~~they~~ ^{morbid excitement?} occupied by ~~them~~

- If this were the case, instead of repor-
 ting the deaths of our patients from
 a single disease in our bills of mortality,
 we should ascribe them to a host of
 diseases, and in some instances to most



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of the ~~the~~ diseases upon record in our
 systems of nosology. But further, if dis-
 ease has as many names as it has forms
 and facts, I ask why should ^{not} death be
 placed upon the same footing? By this
 rule we ought to have a ^{methodica} ~~Thanatologia~~
 well as a nosologia methodica, and to divide
^{death}
 in ~~the~~ some such manner as the following.
~~morbus~~ ^{tit} febrilis when death occurs from a
 fever - ~~morbus~~ ^{tit} apoplectica & paralytica when
 it is induced by apoplexy, or Palsy, - ~~morbus~~ ^{tit}
 syncope, when it arises from Syncope,
~~morbus~~ ^{tit} convulsiva - when it follows convulsi-
 ons, and as many other species of death,
 as there are diseases. Who does not see the
 absurdity of thus multiplying the ancient
 simplicity and unity of death? - ~~Believe~~



~~My attention~~ It is equally absurd to multiply
the simplicity and unity of disease.

To render this subject more intelligible,
I shall attempt to illustrate it by a familiar
simile. Suppose I were ~~to say that in walk-~~
~~ing through one of the streets of Philadelphia~~
~~my way to the University this morning, I~~
~~met~~ a dog that attempted to bite
me, - that I chased ~~the~~ this dog into the room
of a house, where I found him changed into a
cat, - Suppose I pursued this cat into another
room, and it changed into a goat, - Suppose
this goat to ascend the stairs, and in the
first room it entered, to become a hog, - Sup-
pose this hog by passing into an adjoining
room, to become a ~~cow~~ ^{cat}, - Suppose this
~~cow~~ ^{cat} by ascending the third story to be suddenly
changed into ~~a monkey~~ ^{a monkey} - ~~who~~
- believe this ~~is~~ wonderful tale - ? Now

V in order expel him more promptly
so as prevent his injuring, or destroying
that furniture.

the physician who believes ~~that a disease~~ ^{that a disease} ac-
 quires new generic or specific qualities by
 passing from one part of the body ^{to another,} believes
 in an Absurdity as Contrary to truth and
 reason as the one I have mentioned. ~~But~~
 to resume our simile, suppose I had found the
 animal that I chased, say a Dog, to be the
 same in every apartment of the house to which
 he retreated, I ask, whether a different weapon
 would have been necessary to drive him out
 of each apartment? By no means. The
 only difference that would have been necessary
 in the weapons employed to contend with him,
 would ^{have} been in those cases ^{where} ~~is that~~ he occupied
~~the~~ rooms in which there were the most costly
 or brittle ^{articles of} furniture, ~~as a room of such~~
~~kind~~. Here ^a ~~some~~ weapons of more force, and
 of a different form would have been required ~~as~~
~~that to prevent the destruction of~~
~~that furniture by jumping upon or discharging~~

V a greater force of the ^{same} ~~or~~ remedies, or some
Variety in their forms to to dislodge it than
when it is seated in ~~the~~ parts less open:
- trial to life.

his excretions upon ^{it}. In like manner Disease
we gentlemen, it is equally absurd to
multiply the simplicity & variety of Dis-
- ~~ease~~ ^{cases} the same disease when it
occupies certain parts of the body, for instance
the brain, the lungs - the Trachea, or the eyes requires
from ~~the~~ the View we have
taken of the Changes of Diseases by season
Climate, time and death in their Seats &
Symptoms, and from this combination
in Epidemics, ^{the reader must} ~~you must~~ see how im-
- possible it is to divide them by any
fixed Characters such as designate ani-
- mals and plants, from which the ~~the~~
- ~~titles~~ titles of Classes, Orders, Genera &
Species have been taken. No season, Climate,
Lapse of years, or mixture of breeds have
been able to change an ox into a lion,
or an Oak into an Apple tree. They
are exactly the same now that they





gave no insight into its nature, I shall not
 but one from Dr Heberden. "A man in
 his 50th years began to lose ^{his} strength with
 some degree of fever. He sometimes felt
 slight shiverings, and sometimes very
 strong ones, returning irregularly during
 his whole illness. His appetite was lost,
 but he had no vomiting. His stools were
 regular till the two last months of his
 life. His urine was in a natural state.
 His pulse was rarely too quick. There was
 no tension in his belly. In the 2nd month
 of his illness, he had an excruciating pain in
 his stomach. Pains of the loins, hips, and
 back would come on suddenly without
 continuing above half an hour. For a
 few days his right hand was swelled &

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in pain, and for two days the calf of his
 leg was too painful to bear being touched,
 but without any heat, redness or swelling.
 He complained chiefly of the right side of
 his belly. During the last two months of his
 life, he was harassed with an unceasing
 -rable Diarrhoea. This illness proved fatal,
 about the 8th month. From ~~the~~ history
 of his symptoms, it would be natural to
 expect that an examination of his body
 after death would have discovered its seat
 to have been in his stomach, his bowels, or
 his liver. But this was far from being
 the case, for adds the Doctor, a large Ulcer
 was found in one side of his spleen, and the
 rest of it seemed ^{as if} an adhesion had been
 formed between the spleen and peritoneum.
No other parts were distempered!"

V I could mention many hundred
instances; ~~from our systems of zoology.~~
but I shall select two of the most
incongruous nature from =



them viz apoplexy & palsy, affect the muscular system as well as the arterial, and nervous. — 2.^d the ^{Doctor} ~~Dr~~ places Dropsies and Scum among his cachectic diseases; now ^{terminal of} ~~the~~ the forms of Dropsy & ~~morbid~~ ^{action} Scum are attended with arterial ~~action~~ and are only to be cured by the remedies commonly employed for the cure of fevers. Many other similar errors are to be found in his arrangement of diseases, most of which lead to erroneous and unsuccessful practice.

IX Nosology excludes most of the diseases of ^{Infants and young children} ~~Children~~ from our knowledge, especially those which affect this viscera; for by what signs shall we know them in persons who are unable to describe them from the want of Speech? Practice regulated by a



belief in the Unity of the Disease renders
 Speech in some measures unnecessary to
 know ~~the~~ ~~their~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Arterial Diseases, &
 the Symptoms of nearly all their other
 Diseases are obvious to most of our
 senses.

X Nosology dooms all Domestic Animals
 to perish from all their numerous in-
 -ternal Diseases, for they like infants
 and young Children are unable to describe
 their Seats, Symptoms, or Causes. By
 means of the pulse, the eye, the Countenance
 & pulse, the Diseases of Domestic Animals
 may be known with nearly the same
 certainty as the Diseases of Adult men
 & women, and cured with the same
 facility by a Unitarian in medicine.



XI Nosology ~~is~~ in its present state is incomplete, and Desert us in a great number of ~~cases~~ ~~in which its aid is~~ required. I have said that Anatomy & Physiology are ~~both~~ opposed to it. They ~~both~~ teach us that the same Viscus has different properties according to the nature of the animal matter of which it is composed, or the functions it is intended to perform. Disease in the Cerebrum is attended with different symptoms from ~~a~~ disease in the Cerebellum. Disease in the blood vessels, membranes & nerves of the brain, is attended with different symptoms. The same remark applies to the pharynx, the lungs, the bronchial vessels, the trachea, - the Glottis, and the



Epiglottis. Disease in the concave part of
 the liver, is attended with different
 symptoms from its disease on its
 convex part. Disease in the capsular
 ligaments of the bones is attended with
 different symptoms from disease in
 the periosteum. Disease in the fundus
 of the bladder, is attended with different
 symptoms from disease in its neck.
 Disease in each of the intestines has its
 peculiar symptoms, accompanied with
 a different degree as well as kinds of pains
 and heat, if we admit a specific name
 for the disease of each viscus, or integral
 part of the body founded upon a differ-
 ence in their symptoms, - why

✓ only to the honor of their having diseases
designated by names we admit too little,
or too much Nosology into medicine. I have
mentioned the evils of admitting too little.
~~By admitting~~ Should we admit the viscera
only into our systems of nosology, why,
^{limit them} not ~~extend~~ ^{more,} ~~it~~ a little ~~further~~, and admit
the Throat, Brain, the Throat - the Abdomen
of the extremities as the only seats of
nosological names? - But why pause
with these prominent parts of the body;
and since ~~every~~ all its parts are composed
of the same materials, and not ^{view} consider
the whole body as a Unit, and consider it as
we do a single viscus, or a single muscle
and ^{confine all its morbid Affections to} ~~confine~~ ^{upon} the single name of
Disease? This must sooner or later be the
issue of our present ~~imperfect~~ partial Systems of
Nosology; Thus =

Should we

not, admit a specific name for the dis-
 -eases of the different kinds of animal
 matter which compose those viscera,
 or integral parts, for they differ in many
 instances as much in their symptoms
 as the extremities of the body, or the
 most dissimilar parts ~~of~~ in their structure
 and functions differ in their symptoms
 when they are diseased. This remark
 applies in a more especial manner to
 the brain, the liver, and the intestines,
 the variety of the symptoms of disease in
 each of which, is probably equal to the
 variety of morbid functions in the whole
 body, and requires as great a latitude in
 the remedies that are necessary to cure
 it as disease in any, or in every other
 part of the body. By admitting the ^{viscera} ~~large~~

- truth in this instance, as in a hundred
others, will finally grow from necessity
out of the extremity of error.

- If then we admit Neurology in large and important parts of the body, we are bound to extend it to the subdivisions of those parts in their most minute extent. Let us then try how the extension of the neurological nomenclature to those subdivisions of integral, or continuous parts of the body will affect our class.

Cerebritis, Cerebellitis, Arterio-phrenitis,
menbrano-phrenitis, neuro-phrenitis,
externo-hepatitis, interno-hepatitis,
phrenitis, pulmonitis, glothitis, tracheitis, bron-
chitis, epiglottitis, tracheitis, bronchitis,
ligamento-rheumatismus, periostio-rheu-
-matismus, periducto-cystitis, collo-cysti-
-tis, illitis, jejunitis, duodenitis,



Colitis, Cecitis, Rectitis ~~etc~~ - Should we
 proceed in this manner where would noso-
 -logy end? - Every nerve, every muscle
 every lymphatic gland, and every every
~~component~~ would come it with its claim
 for an itis, or nosological name
 when diseased, - nay - more - they would
 have a right to demand a name, for
 the disease of each of ^{their} ~~its~~ component parts
 whether a blood vessel, a nerve, a membrane
 or a single fibre. I am not uncandid
 in thus exposing the deficiency of nosolo-
 -gy to the number of and demands of
 diseases. Dr. Willan has attempted to re-
 -medy this deficiency in his treatise upon
 the diseases of the skin, and thereby ~~as~~
~~discovered~~ its folly ^{and impracticability}.

V and have nothing to do with this
morphological names.

Who ever saw

~~leaves as I have done. That is~~
 the lines exactly marked between the
~~leaves and veins of Triseptas~~

~~fungax, emarginatum, papulatum,~~
 tuberculatum and nodosum? ~~That is~~ or between
 the Pimplis ~~They are~~
~~different species of Pimplis.~~ ~~Un-~~

-giris, Contagiosus, and infantilis, or
 if ~~these~~ those cutaneous diseases have at any
~~time~~ time assumed those discriminating marks, ~~the~~
~~different species of Pimplis~~
 what ~~advantage~~ advantage has been

~~derived from the knowledge of them? The~~
~~remedies are not proper to~~
~~remedies are not proper to~~ that are proper to
 cure ^{them} are regulated by their grades and seats, &

XII. Nosology has no resources for new
 diseases, and new diseases, or new forms
 of old diseases constantly occur in the
 practice of every physician. ~~For the~~ If he be a

~~lost French physician. Creating~~
 nosologist, he will be appalled with very

+ The Rev D Ogilvie then a Captain
in the provincial Army.

Soldier who belonged to the British Army
 was condemned to be hanged. Upon the
 Scaffold, he called for a Clergyman to
 pray for him. A Clergyman ~~was sent~~
~~for and~~ ascended the Scaffold with the
 trembling victim to military law. Upon
 looking over his prayer book he told
 him there was not a single prayer in
 it that suited his Condition and irre-
 -diability left him. Another Clergyman of
 the same Church was sent for who had
 been in the habit of praying extempore,
 who at once accommodated a prayer to
 the circumstances of the dying Culprit.
 In the history of these two Clergymen you
 see an illustration of the conduct of a zoologist,
 and a Unitarian in medicine in all new
 diseases. The former is appalled with every



new disease, or form of disease he meets with
 which he does not find in his ^{classes of} ~~classes of~~
~~diseases~~, and deserts, or injures his patients,
 while the ^{Unitarian in medicine} ~~Unitarian~~ is prepared by his principles
 to meet every possible form of morbid excitement,
 for he believes it has but one cause which
~~cause~~ is perfectly familiar to him in consequence
 of which he prescribes with the same
 confidence, and certainty as in the most common
 and simple diseases. There is the same difference
 between such a physician, and a
 neurologist that there is between a man
 who undertakes to travel all over the world
 with ~~with~~ a few large bank notes in
 his pocket, and a man who who under-
 takes a similar journey with his pockets
 filled with all the different coins of all

~~V of disingenuousness~~ ~~it would~~
~~I said formerly~~ ~~Abhorred~~ ^{Debility,}
~~the~~ ~~with equal confidence~~
~~to~~ ~~that~~
~~I~~ conclude from all the facts ~~that~~
~~have been mentioned,~~ that Disease ~~is~~
~~the~~ ~~Abhorred~~ ~~nosology.~~

~~I cannot help~~ ~~unmasking~~
~~in this place~~ that in every profession and Deu.
~~position of man,~~ we find ~~Delusive attempts~~
~~make impracticable Discoveries,~~ Thus the
~~politician~~ spends days and nights in pursuit
~~of what he calls~~ perfutability in government;
~~the infidel~~ ~~attempts to build a fabric~~
~~upon human~~ ~~Reason which~~
~~shall supersede the~~ ~~reapity of Revelation;~~ the
~~Chemists~~ grow old in search of a panacea that
~~shall cure all diseases,~~ of an elixir that shall
~~restore~~ antediluvian longevity, and of a
~~method of converting the base metals into~~
~~the mathematician~~ ~~labours day and night to square the~~
~~circle,~~ - the mechanic spends years of solitude
~~in endeavouring to find out~~

32 ^{the body}
the nations in the world. ~~To the~~ ^V
~~to the~~ ~~that the~~ ~~mind of the~~ ~~impediments~~

Having pointed out the impracticability of dividing diseases by specific characters and, the errors and imperfection of ~~the system~~ of nosology, I shall now mention the evils that it has introduced ^{and perpetuated} into the practice of medicine.

1 It deprives us of the means of preventing diseases in their forming state. ~~to the~~ ~~that the~~ ~~impediments~~
I have said that debility is the predisposing cause of all diseases, ~~and~~ that the symptoms of this debility are the same in every disease, and that the same ^{it} stimulus when given to obviate ~~it~~ ~~it~~ will prevent the formation of disease whether it be gout, pleurisy or yellow fever.

perceptual motion, while the physician
with equal folly, attempts to ~~do~~ frame
a system of nosology. They ^{all alike} ~~all alike~~ break
^{or derangement} of the human
~~into~~ the weakness ~~of the human~~
Understanding.

Now Nosology deprives us of this means
 of destroying disease in its germ. It directs
 us to wait 'till the disease has put forth
 its generic or ~~specific~~ Characters, and thereby
 renders its cure difficult, tedious, uncertain,
 and often impracticable. I have heard of a
 Nosological physician ^{in a neighbouring state} ~~in this~~ who visited
 a patient three ^{successive} days in a fever without
 prescribing for him. Upon being asked
 the reason for ^{this} ~~the~~ conduct, he said, he
 was waiting till the fever had developed
 itself, and showed ^{to} what genus or species
 of fever it belonged. ~~He~~ ^{Deceived} man! Had
 he ^{he} known that ~~from that~~ there is but
 one fever, & that the same remedies
 are alike proper for the same ~~fever~~.

V as well might we refuse to throw
 water upon a house on fire, until
 we were first informed of the place &
manner in which it was kindled,
 as delay to prescribe for a violent
 disease until it had developed on
 put forth all its characteristic symp-
 toms. The ^{nature and} unity of fire ^{does not} ~~justify~~
 more certainly justify and ~~require~~
~~promptness in extinguishing it~~
~~than the unity of disease~~ ⁱⁿ ~~promptness~~ ^{it}
~~when it exists in the form of~~
 a single spark, than the Nature &
 Unity of disease justify and demand
 promptness in curing it ~~in its~~
~~in its~~ ^{in its} ~~foregoing~~ ^{foregoing} state.

grades of all the different forms of fever,
^{not} he would have given the disease such
 an advantage over his remedies by ~~the~~
 his ~~procrastinating~~ system of error. &
~~delays~~ Many thousands of lives I believe have
 been lost by a ~~procrastinating~~ practice in all ages
 & countries.

2 Nosology by multiplying diseases accord-
 -ing to the number of their remote causes
 has ~~led~~ ^{physicians to employ different} ~~led~~
 and opposite
 remedies to ~~the~~ cure ~~of~~ them. Thus
 an inflammation of the lungs from
 cold, and from gout is exactly the same
 disease, and yet because they ^{are derived from} ~~are~~ diffe-
 -rent ^{causes} ~~causes~~ in our ^{systems} ~~systems~~ of no-
 -eology, ~~and~~ ^{and} have different
 names, they are treated with opposite



remedies. A gangrene from heat and cold is the same disease or disorder, and yet ~~the same~~ different remedies are employed to cure ~~the~~ it founded upon a supposed difference in their causes. There is no difference between a dropsy of the head from a Contusion, and from worms, and ~~the~~ ^{yet} the one is attacked by bleeding, and the other by vomitive medicines. This practice of prescribing for a plurality of ~~different~~ remote causes as if each cause produced a specifically different disease has likewise thain its thousands in all ages and countries.

3 Nosology has done great mischief by leading to the use of different remedies

